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PP RUEHFL RUEHKW RUEHLA RUEHROV RUEHSR

DE RUEHAK #0536/01 0792214

ZNY CCCCC ZZB

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5641

INFO RUEH2L/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

RUEHGB/AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD PRIORITY 1154

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RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC//J-3/J-5// PRIORITY

RHMFISS/39ABG CP INCIRLIK AB TU PRIORITY

RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC PRIORITY

RHMFISS/425ABG IZMIR TU//CC// PRIORITY

RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY

RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 ANKARA 000536

SIPDIS

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/18/2018

TAGS: PGOV TU

SUBJECT: TURKEY: RULING AKP TO TRY TO OVERCOME CLOSURE CASE

BY AMENDING CONSTITUTION

REF: ANKARA 526 AND PREVIOUS

Classified By: PolCouns Janice G Weiner, reasons 1.4 (b), (d)

11. (C) Summary: Turkey's ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) is drafting a mini-constitutional amendment package to attempt to overcome

12. (C) xxxxx told us March 19 the party is hard at work on a mini-constitutional amendment package. The party sees the closure case as politic

13. (C) With respect to the concern voiced by many that the current case is "untouchable" because Article 138 of the Constitution prohibits leg

14. (C) xxxxx AKP will work at a compromise with MHP; if that is not possible, AKP will push the package through parliament. AKP on its own (li

15. (C) Asked whether AKP, in pushing such a package, was not playing with fire, xxxxx responded the party had concluded it would be more dange

16. (C) Comment: The AKP appears determined to fight this head on. This is well-aligned with PM Erdogan's street-fighter instincts, and with th

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